

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051361

PLEASE PASS TO AMB. RICHARDSON, USLOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: THE LAW OF THE SEA POLICY REVIEW (PRM/NSC-18)

1. THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE/NSC-4
DATED MARCH 8, 1977: BEGIN TEXT: I HAVE REVIEWED THE
PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM/NSC-18, PART 1, RESPONSE IN-
CLUDING SPECIFICALLY THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND AGENCY VIEWS
ON LOS NEGOTIATING AND LEGISLATIVE POSTURES. THE DECISIONS
SET FORTH BELOW ARE INTENDED AS INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR THE
INTERSESSIONAL SESSIONS ONLY. AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS
OF THESE MEETINGS, AS WELL AS FULL ANALYSIS OF STRATEGIC
OPTIONS AND ACCEPTABLE TREATY PACKAGES, ARE TO BE SUBMITTED
THROUGH THE POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR FULL INTERAGENCY
CONSIDERATION AND MY DECISION PRIOR TO THE NEXT LOS CON-
FERENCE (MAY 23-JUNE 8). THE STUDY ON SEABED MINING LEGIS-
LATION CONTINUES TO BE DUE TO THE POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE
BY MARCH 21, 1977.

PENDING MY FURTHER REVIEW AND DECISION, EXISTING INSTRUC-
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TIONS ARE REAFFIRMED AS MODIFIED BELOW:

1. I APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE U.S. SHOULD
CONTINUE TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY WHICH

ACCOMMODATES OUR ESSENTIAL INTERNATIONAL, SECURITY,
COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION, RESOURCE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIEN-

TIFIC INTERESTS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE DEEP SEABEDS, THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR THE DEEP SEABEDS WHICH WILL FACILITATE RATIONAL INVESTMENT IN DEEP SEABED MINING AND PRODUCTION AND WHICH WILL INCLUDE A SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES ASSURED U.S. ACCESS ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS TO THESE MINERALS. IN FURTHERING THIS OBJECTIVE AND WHILE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE U.S. PROPOSALS FOR A PARALLEL SYSTEM OF MINING WHICH INCLUDES BOTH STATES AND THEIR NATIONALS AS WELL AS AN INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE, MY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE MAY INFORMALLY CONSIDER OTHER MECHANISMS WHICH PROTECT OUR INTERESTS, AND PERMIT QUALIFIED STATES AND PRIVATE PARTIES TO OBTAIN ASSURED ACCESS ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS TO SEABED RESOURCES.

3. I APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE DELEGATION BE GRANTED THE FLEXIBILITY TO EXPLORE VARIOUS KINDS OF INTERIM REGIMES WHICH WOULD FULLY PROTECT U.S. RESOURCE INTERESTS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION, I DIRECT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL: WORK WITH CONGRESS IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD OPTIMALLY CONTRIBUTE TO ACCELERATING PROGRESS ON SEABEDS AT THE NEXT CONFERENCE SESSION; NOT SUPPORT ENACTMENT OF DEEP SEABED LEGISLATION PRIOR TO THE END OF THE NEXT SESSION; INDICATE THAT IT PREFERS NON-SITE SPECIFIC LEGISLATION. ALL THESE DECISIONS MAY BE MODIFIED DUE TO THE RESULTS OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS, OR THE FINDINGS OF PART 3 OF THE LOS PRM/NSC-18 REVIEW. FINAL
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DECISIONS ON DETAILED SUBSTANCE AND APPROPRIATE TIMING OF POSSIBLE LEGISLATION ARE RESERVED UNTIL THAT STUDY IS COMPLETED. END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

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